

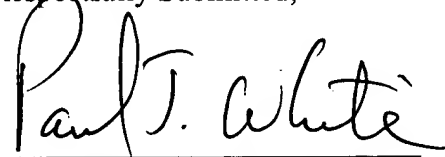
REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending in the application. The examiner has allowed claims 1-7 and 11-19, and has rejected rejected claims 8-10. The examiner also indicated in his summary on page 1 of the Office Action that "Claim(s) 8-10 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement", although Box 8 remained unchecked, and claims 8-10 appear to have already been examined (i.e., rejection of claims 8-10) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)). Therefore, applicant believes the restriction and/or election requirement may have been an error. At the same time this issue is probably moot, because the Applicants have decided to cancel claims 8-10. Please note that claim 7 was previously cancelled in Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, which was filed on June 10, 2003, and is, therefore, no longer pending.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, all of the remaining pending claims 1-6 and 11-19 have been allowed, and the applicant requests a Notice of Allowance on this patent application. If any issues remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: October 31, 2003